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North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners. If you have any comments to improve this summary or local information you would like to see in the summary please send the information to; kihagel@nd.gov

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NORTH DAKOTA

(North Dakota) Kindred officials declare a state of emergency. Overland flood prone Kindred, North Dakota, is the latest city to get in line to prepare for the possible rush of waters this spring. City officials declared a state of emergency at a March 3 council meeting, but for this small town, the biggest concern is not even within the city limits. It is outlying areas like the south side of town's flood barrier, Highway 46. The council approved a resolution to allow the Corps. of Engineers to aid the city this spring, and started their push for volunteers. The community's biggest challenge is not even within city limits: instead, outlying areas like the south side of town's flood barrier, Highway 46. The mayor said, "It washed out last year and that's kind of our natural flood barrier that we have that keeps a lot of it on the south side of it. But last year a culvert broke and washed a very large hole in the highway and so that's what kind of scared Davenport last year." City officials kept a detailed diary of all the events and preparations from last year to better help them this year. They city has not

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started sandbagging yet, they will decide that in the next week. Right now, they have 85-thousand bags that are ready to be filled and a storage area on the south side of town to keep them. Source: <http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/30603/>

(North Dakota) Two Mandan schools locked down because of bomb threats. Mandan High School and Mandan Middle School were locked down Thursday because of bomb threats called into both schools, the Mandan superintendent said. Law enforcement was called to both schools, and students were kept in classrooms. Nothing was found at either school, he said. Classes resumed shortly before 2:30 p.m. The high school posed more of a concern because of the multiple entrances, the superintendent said, while the middle school only has one entrance from which people can enter. The school district did not release any other details. The Mandan Police Department is investigating the incident. The threat was called in about 12:57 p.m. and the caller indicated bombs would go off in the afternoon, but did not specify a time, according to a release from the Mandan Police Department. Source: http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/local/article_72c80b2a-27cd-11df-a324-001cc4c002e0.html

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) County chooses VHF digital radio over state ARMER plan. After nearly three years of meetings and study, Hubbard County, Minnesota, voted Wednesday to move forward on the purchase of VHF digital radio equipment for emergency personnel, not align itself with the expensive state radio system called ARMER. The sheriff said the VHF digital equipment makes the best fiscal sense for the county. He would delay his recommendation, he said, “but there’s grant monies out there and we need to move forward.” The decision caps months of wrangling between emergency personnel on whether to purchase the state system or VHF. The national conversion to narrowband radio, to accommodate more emergency channels, was a directive of the 9/11 commission in the wake of the World Trade Center bombings. Hubbard County began purchasing some VHF equipment gradually a few years ago. It was the unanimous recommendation of engineers consulted to weigh in on what would work best for the region. The county used nearly \$141,000 in Homeland Security grant funds to begin upgrading its equipment. The sheriff said the engineers concluded, “ARMER (the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response) was the better choice for densely populated areas and the VHF worked better for rural areas.” Source: <http://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/event/article/id/22520/>

(Minnesota) Bomb threat evacuates Elk River High School. The entire Elk River High School in Minnesota was evacuated Wednesday morning after a bomb threat was made to the school. The Elk River Police Chief said at approximately 10:30 a.m. a phone call came in to the health office from an unidentified male who said something bad would happen within 20 minutes. Since this was the second threat made, the first being a written note on February 25 warning of a bombing event on March 3, school administration decided evacuation would be best. Within minutes the entire school was evacuated across the street to the Central Lutheran Church. Seven K9s from the metro area responded to the Elk River High School, and at 12:45 p.m. they were still searching the interior and exterior of the building. At this point nothing has been found. The police chief said normally when looking at events of great magnitude, like Columbine, threatening phone calls are not normally placed first. However, since it was the second threat in less than a week, the decision was made to evacuate. At this point it is unknown who made the phone call, the police chief said, however, if they are caught

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the will face felony charges. The Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Marshal, and Airport Security also responded to the scene. Source: <http://erstarnews.com/content/view/11489/94/>

(Minnesota) Nuclear plant security stops trespasser. A man who fled Treasure Island Resort & Casino security early Sunday morning was apprehended by nuclear plant security when he trespassed on Xcel Energy property in Red Wing. Plant security detected the individual at 1:45 a.m. near a wooded area several hundred yards from the plant, according to Xcel officials. He was intercepted by plant security at about the same time as Prairie Island Indian Community police arrived. Tribal police took the individual into custody. In a report filed with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the plant said it was later determined that the individual had fled on foot from the nearby casino, where he had been detained on suspicion of underage drinking. The incident did not pose a threat to the plant or to the safety of the public and nuclear plant officials notified the NRC resident inspector. Source: <http://www.republican-eagle.com/event/article/id/65064/>

(Montana) Oct. freeze brings disaster aid for Mont. counties. Farmers in 10 Montana counties could qualify for federal disaster aid, under a declaration announced by federal agriculture officials in response to a crop-killing deep freeze last October. Yellowstone and Stillwater counties were named primary natural disaster areas Monday because of widespread sugar beet losses during the freeze, which came before many farmers had harvested their crops. Farmers in eight contiguous counties also qualify for assistance: Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Park, Rosebud, Sweet Grass and Treasure. The disaster designation makes farmers eligible for low interest emergency loans through the federal Farm Service Agency. Loan applications must be submitted by late October. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9E60C780.htm>

(Minnesota) Vandals shoot at Stockton electric station, Winona Co. residents lose power. Nearly 900 Winona County, Minnesota, residents were without power Sunday after vandals shot and damaged an electric substation. Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TEC) says residents in Winona, Stockton, Lewiston and Rollingstone did not have power for about two hours Sunday. Vandals shot several insulators at the Stockton substation at around 5:00 p.m., damaging a transmission line operated by Dairy Land Power Cooperative, TEC's wholesale power provider. The Winona County Sheriff's Department is investigating the vandalism. Source: <http://www.wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=12063467>

(Wyoming) Scrubber problem shuts down Gillette power plant. Problems with a scrubber forced the temporary shut down of the Wyodak power plant near Gillette, Wyoming. The scrubber is 1 of 3 140-foot-tall silo-shaped scrubbers at the Wyodak plant, which is operated by PacifiCorp. Scrubbers capture and pull sulfur dioxide out of the power plant's exhaust before it is released out of the stack. A PacifiCorp spokesman says a section of 1 of the scrubber vessels failed and sustained structural damage last week. He says corrosion is a possibility, but he did not yet have complete details on the incident. He says the plant was shut down as precaution so the other two scrubbers could be inspected. The 335-megawatt Wyodak Power Plant opened in 1978. Source: <http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=12066255>

NATIONAL

Nothing Significant to Report

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INTERNATIONAL

Norwegian ship hijacked off Madagascar. A chemical tanker with 21 crew members has been hijacked by Somali pirates near Madagascar, the Norwegian owner said Saturday. It was not clear whether anyone in the crew, all from Myanmar, had been injured in the attack early Friday or whether any ransom had been demanded. The CEO and managing director of Norway's Th. Broevigtank Shipowners said the UBT Ocean chemical tanker was on its way from the United Arab Emirates to Tanzania when it was hijacked about 300 miles from its destination. He said the 9,000-ton vessel is registered in the Marshall Islands and was carrying fuel oil. A spokesman for the vessel's technical manager, Ship Management Associates in Singapore, said attempts have been made to re-establish contact with the vessel, but it has so far been unsuccessful. The hijacking is one of the southernmost attacks the pirates have ever launched, and serves as yet another indicator that increased naval patrols in the Gulf of Aden are pushing the pirates' range further south and east into the Indian Ocean. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gB7YMEDuCwwY9ncDOtPAkEI4-H2wD9E983VO0>

Investigators on way after waves kill cruise passengers. Investigators were en route Thursday, and dead and injured were being evacuated, a day after 26-foot waves crashed into a cruise ship and killed two people off northeast Spain, officials said. The Greece-based Louis Cruise Lines ship was in the Mediterranean north of Barcelona, Spain, when it was hit by three "abnormal" waves, each about 26 feet high, said a cruise line spokesman. The waves smashed five windows on deck five in public areas — on the forward part, or bow, of the 14-deck ship. Two passengers were killed. The first wave pushed down the ship's bow, and the second wave soon after struck the front of deck five. Crew members evacuated the injured to the ship's hospital. Several doctors and nurses traveling aboard as passengers also helped. Fourteen were treated aboard the ship for light injuries, but were hospitalized as a precaution when the ship returned to Barcelona on Wednesday night. The incident occurred 24 miles off Cabo de San Sebastian, near the Spanish town of Palafrugell. The ship had 1,350 passengers and 580 crew members, the Greek ministry said. The passengers were from 27 nations. They included Americans, French, Germans, and Italians. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/europe/03/04/spain.cruise.ship.wave/index.html?hpt=Sbin>

Singapore warns of terror threat in Malacca Strait. Singapore's Navy warned that a terrorist group is planning attacks on oil tankers in the Malacca Straits, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Terrorists may also be targeting other vessels in the shipping lane off Malaysia's east coast, according to an advisory issued on March 3 by the Navy's Information Fusion Center seen by the Associated Press. "The terrorists' intent is probably to achieve widespread publicity and showcase that it remains a viable group," the Navy advisory said. "However, this information does not preclude possible attacks on other large vessels with dangerous cargo." The Navy did not say which terrorist group is planning the attacks. Spokesmen at the Defense Ministry and the Information Fusion Center were not immediately available for comment. The Malacca Strait is the favorite route of oil shippers between the Persian Gulf and Asian Pacific markets. The strait, just 1.7 miles at its narrowest point, was the second-busiest shipping lane of crude in 2006, with 15 million barrels a day passing through, according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency. Singapore lies at the southern tip of the Malay peninsula and is home to the world's busiest port. The Navy said in previous successful terrorist attacks on tankers, small fishing boats or speedboats were used, and these kinds of boats could be

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used to attack ships in the Malacca Strait. The Navy, which said it is coordinating with regional partners regarding the threat, recommended ships add lookouts and lighting, avoid fishing areas, and maintain a good speed. Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/03/04/general-as-singapore-terror-threat_7406113.html?boxes=financechannelAP

Shell reports attack on Nigeria oil flow station. Planted explosives damaged a Royal Dutch Shell PLC oil flow station in the Niger Delta, a company spokesman said on March 3, marking the latest attack in a region supposedly brought under control by a government amnesty program. A previously unknown militant group claimed responsibility for the attack Tuesday on the Kokori oil flow station, operated by a Shell subsidiary in Nigeria. A Shell spokesman said the flow station was not in use and was unmanned at the time of the explosion, so there were no injuries. "It hadn't been producing for some time," he said. In a statement to Nigerian newspapers, a group calling itself the People's Patriotic Revolutionary Force of the Joint Revolutionary Council claimed it attacked the flow station early morning on March 2. It warned all foreign oil companies to leave the oil-rich Delta immediately or face further violence. "We hereby announce the resumption of fresh and final hostilities in the Niger Delta and beyond," the group said. The Joint Revolutionary Council is a smaller militant group that once claimed to be allied with the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, the main militant force in the Delta. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gHJyop68FyJkZy4mhXIgmHhzZRvwD9E762RO1>

Somali pirates seize empty Saudi oil tanker and crew. Somali pirates have captured a small Saudi tanker and its crew, the EU naval force in the Gulf of Aden says. The tanker, travelling from Japan to Jeddah, was empty when pirates hijacked the vessel and took its crew captive. The MT Nisir Al Saudi was outside the shipping lanes patrolled by naval warships, it was reported. Somali pirate attacks usually increase in the months between March and May because calmer seas allow the pirates to operate more freely. The captain of the ship is Greek, but the nationalities of the rest of the crew are not known. In November 2008, Somali pirates hijacked the Sirius Star, a Saudi supertanker loaded with two million barrels of oil. They released it after two months in return for a ransom, believed to have been \$3m, which was parachuted on to the deck of the ship by helicopter. The latest ship to be captured was taken to the Somali town of Garacad, a known pirate stronghold, said a commander of the EU Naval Force in the area. Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8547140.stm>

RAF jets scrambled after disruption on AA flight. Two Royal Air Force fighter jets were dispatched after reports a passenger was trying to get into the cockpit of an American Airlines jet bound for Heathrow Airport, airline and military officials said Tuesday. The ministry of defense said the Typhoon fighters were scrambled from the RAF Coningsby base in central England on Tuesday morning. They were recalled to the base after the incident was found not to be terrorism-related. Police say the Boeing 767 jet — AA Flight 78 from Dallas/Fort Worth — carrying 161 passengers and 12 crew members landed safely, and a woman was arrested on suspicion of endangering an aircraft. American Airlines said the woman "became distressed during the flight and reportedly attempted to gain access to the flight deck." "She was calmed by flight attendants but, as a precaution, a priority approach to London was requested and police were asked to meet the aircraft," the airline said in a statement. The woman's age, nationality, and name were not released. Source:

http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/03/02/general-eu-britain-jet-alert_7399130.html?boxes=Homepagebusinessnews

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BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

(Texas) Police arrest man who allegedly threatened to fly plane into bank. A detention hearing is set for a Utica man arrested on March 3 after he allegedly threatened to fly an airplane into a Chase Bank building in Houston. "Chase Bank employees were frightened by this threat since several weeks ago, a plane had been flown into an Internal Revenue Service building in Austin, Texas," an FBI special agent said in an affidavit that was attached to documents charging the suspect with making an interstate threat. The suspect, 40, a real estate appraiser also known by another alias, refused for nearly two hours to come to the front door when federal agents visited his home on March 5. He allegedly made the phone threat on March 4, the affidavit said. The suspect, who appeared in U.S. District Court in Detroit late on March 5 and was ordered held for a detention hearing on March 8, was reportedly upset about a real estate appraisal Chase Bank had conducted and told the operator at the bank's Houston call center he was "ready to fly an airplane into your building." Source: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20100306/METRO03/3060356/1409/metro/Police-arrest-man-who-allegedly-threatened-to-fly-plane-into-bank>

New BlackEnergy trojan targeting Russian, Ukrainian banks. Russian hackers have written a more sophisticated version of the infamous BlackEnergy Trojan associated with the 2008 cyberattacks against Georgia that now targets Russian and Ukrainian online banking customers. A security researcher with SecureWorks says Russian hackers are using the Trojan spread via the BlackEnergy botnet to hit Russian and Ukrainian banks with a two-pronged attack that steals their customers' online banking credentials and then wages a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack on the banks as a cover: "They may be emptying the bank accounts while the banks are busy cleaning up from the DDoS," he says. Dubbed by the researcher as "BlackEnergy 2," this new version of the Trojan is a full rewrite of the code that features a modular architecture that supports plug-ins that can be written without access to its source code. It currently comes with three different DDoS plug-ins, as well as one for spamming and two for online banking fraud, according to the researcher. Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223101487&subSection=Vulnerabilities+and+threats>

Fed proposes limits on credit card penalty fees. The Federal Reserve proposed restrictions Wednesday on penalty fees that credit card issuers can charge consumers, including limiting the amount of late fees. One of the most significant changes would prohibit card companies from issuing penalty charges larger than the amount of the violation, a common consumer complaint. For example, a person who is late on a \$20 minimum payment could not be hit with a \$39 late fee. In addition, if a card's spending limit is exceeded by buying a \$2 cup of coffee, the penalty fee cannot exceed \$2. The proposed regulations represent the Fed's latest efforts to comply with the sweeping credit card reform legislation passed by Congress last spring. The final phase of the legislation, slated to take effect in August, requires that any penalty fees be "reasonable and proportional" — and lawmakers left it to the Fed to determine exactly what that meant. The proposal also bans inactivity fees that some card companies have charged if consumers do not make new purchases and prohibits multiple penalty fees for a single transgression. Card issuers must notify consumers of the reason for any interest rate increases and are required to take a second look at any accounts that have had rate increases since January 1. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2010/03/03/ST2010030303843.html>

Banks encouraged to implement decent multi-factor authentication to securely offer online banking. Multi-factor authentication will solve the problems of online banking. In a blog posting on the threatpost website a senior anti-virus researcher in Kaspersky Lab's global research and analysis team claimed that banking Trojans reached a form of maximum sophistication in 2007. This specific subset of banker Trojans was - and still is - extremely sophisticated and will exploit per-bank specific vulnerabilities in the implementation of two-factor authentication. He said that a lot of banks do not employ two-factor authentication and when they do, it is a very weak form of it. He said, "In short: online banking requires multi-factor authentication. The authentication code needs to be received or generated on a device, which is not connected to the device that is doing the transaction. Ideally, not only the transaction authorisation code is generated dynamically but also the password for logging onto the banking site. One thing to keep in mind here is that the cryptographic response algorithm needs to be different for logging on and approving transactions." A solution inside this, suggested the researcher, is to make the receiving bank account number a part of the authentication process, either by sending along the number with the SMS or using it as an additional challenge when using a token. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/banks-encouraged-to-implement-decent-multi-factor-authentication-to-securely-offer-online-banking/article/164880/>

Innovative bank scam: Criminals steal account numbers using one-cent transfers. Criminals in Germany are exploiting a loophole in the banking system to get hold of customers' account details. They transfer one cent to random account numbers - if the transfer goes through, they know they can steal money from the account. According to German authorities, criminals attempt to transfer the sum of 1 euro cent to several accounts at a particular bank, using account numbers they have generated at random. If the payment gets rejected by the bank, then the account number does not exist - but if the transfer goes through successfully, then the crooks know they have stumbled upon a genuine account number. It's a similar approach to that sometimes used by the senders of e-mail spam, who may compile mailing lists by generating random email addresses and checking to see which of those accounts accept the messages. Armed with the account number, the crooks then start transferring sums of money out of that account, disguised as payments for supposed purchases or services. Often, they merely inform their own bank that they have the right to withdraw money from the account by direct debit, a procedure often used by utility companies, government institutions and associations. German banks generally do not check very closely to make sure the recipient has the right to make the direct debit. Instead, the onus is on bank customers to spot illicit withdrawals from their account - in cases of fraud, account holders have 13 months to cancel a transaction. Source: <http://freeinternetpress.com/story.php?sid=24774>

(Colorado) Heartland breach: Colorado bank reports new fraud. A Colorado bank has come forward to reveal that as many as 5,000 of its customers were at risk because of new fraudulent transactions tied to the Heartland Payment Systems data breach. First National Bank of Durango, a \$399 million institution, went public with the news on March 1, after several customers reported that their debit cards had fraudulent transactions on them. Additional staff was added by the bank to handle the front-end calls from customers. The bank's senior vice president says the first customers to come forward late last week reported strange charges on their bills. As First National bankers met to discuss the situation, they heard from several more customers and their credit card processor that several debit cards had been compromised. Fewer than 20 customers had reported fraudulent charges by March 1. First National says it has received a list of up to 5,000 card numbers, or one

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fourth of the debit cards it has issued, that may be compromised. No fraud amounts on the compromised cards were revealed. Source:

http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2259

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

DHS supports IST for chemical facility security. The U.S. Presidential Administration supports consideration of inherently safer technology (IST) for chemical facility security standards and the extension of those standards to water and wastewater facilities, the top infrastructure protection official at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) testified on March 3. The undersecretary for National Protection and Programs addressed the need to reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) administered by DHS and due to expire at the end of this fiscal year. He called upon the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee for a permanent of authorization to the program, even if no changes were made to it, as it has worked well to strengthen chemical facility security. The Administration would submit suggested legislation on how to extend CFATS to include provisions on IST and water and wastewater facilities within several months, he predicted. DHS supports providing its regulators with the ability to require high-risk facilities to adopt IST if it becomes the best or only way to ensure security at a chemical facility, he said. IST methods seek to replace chemical engineering processes at plants with chemicals that might be less toxic to people or the environment and thus make a facility less attractive as a terrorist target. But the Administration would not blindly endorse IST, he cautioned. DHS would consider the economic impact, the timeframe, and any conflicts with public health or environmental requirements in doing so. In addition, experts have no common understanding of what IST actually requires, a U.S. senator argued. The undersecretary responded that DHS would work with industry to establish a consensus for the purposes of the law. Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/12388/128/>

(Massachusetts) Authorities say Middleboro 'radioactive' canisters a hoax. The FBI has joined the investigation into who left five canisters marked "radioactive" and "nuclear waste" at Oliver Mill Park in Middleboro. Park Department employees found the canisters sitting on a cement wall at the park Tuesday afternoon, prompting a hazmat response, said a fire chief. Authorities swept the area for radioactivity with Geiger counters and other devices. After a couple of hours the threat was determined to be a hoax, said the fire chief, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation took over the case. The canisters were labelled in magic marker bearing the descriptions Radio Active #1, Isotope #2, Nuclear Waste #13, Radio Active Isotope #9 and Thermo nuclear waste #13. The fire chief is seeking the public's help to find the perpetrator of the hoax. He said it is a serious crime and carries felony charges. The investigation will be a joint effort between the FBI and Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Source: <http://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/x699612248/Authorities-say-Middleboro-radioactive-canisters-a-hoax>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(Iowa) 2 charged with improvised bombs. Authorities in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, say they have charged two 22-year-old men with setting off several improvised chemical bombs at an apartment complex in southwest Cedar Rapids. The explosive devices, which police and firefighters call "MacGyvers" after the once-popular television show, went off the night of January 31, causing no injuries or serious

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damage. A Cedar Rapids fire department spokesman says authorities believe the two men set off the bombs at the apartment complex because a former girlfriend lived there. The two were charged Thursday with reckless use of fire or explosives, which is a serious misdemeanor. They were released on bond after an initial court appearance. Source: http://www.kimt.com/news/state/story/2-charged-with-improvised-bombs/TabLmXKlnUuRHR_8mKVebA.csp

(District of Columbia) Powder found at D.C. office building not hazardous. Authorities have given the all-clear after an office building near Union Station was evacuated Tuesday due to a suspicious envelope. There are no reports of injuries or illness. An envelope filled with white powder that was found at the American Psychological Association offices is not hazardous, a District of Columbia fire department spokesman tells WTOP. The powder was found in the first-floor mailroom of the building — located on First Street in Northeast D.C. — around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. Crews have not identified any toxic or hazardous material, but they will take the substance to a lab for further testing. The FBI is also investigating, the spokesman says. Three people who were in the mailroom went to the hospital on their own, before paramedics arrived, he added. They did not show symptoms of illness. Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=596&sid=1901665>

(South Carolina) Bomb scare hits Sea Pines, but it was a fake grenade. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad was called out Sunday after a security guard found an item resembling a grenade on Lighthouse Road near Sea Pines Center on Hilton Head Island, said a sheriff's captain. It turned out to be a fake, he said. Officers reopened Lighthouse Road and Sea Pines Drive near the Sea Pines Center after the area was shut down for almost two hours. The bomb squad secured the area and determined the item was fake. "It looked like a grenade," he said. "It was lying on the ground under a bush. You just never know. That's why we have the bomb squad come in and handle the device." The item was made of metal and looked like a novelty toy. Officers do not know where it came from or who put it there, he said. Source: <http://www.islandpacket.com/2010/02/28/1155681/bomb-scare-hits-sea-pines-but.html>

(Oregon) Timberhill bomb scare closes stores. A suspected box of ammo left outside a store led to the evacuation Monday morning of two stores in the Timberhill Shopping Center in Oregon. The incident began about 9 a.m., when an employee at Sears found a wooden crate on the sidewalk in front of the business. Printing on the crate indicated it contained artillery ammunition, according an officer of the Corvallis Police Department. Officers evacuated the nearby Sears and Blockbuster Video stores and taped off an area of the parking lot about 250 feet around the box. The Eugene Police Bomb Squad came to the scene and used a robot to open the crate, which turned out to be empty. Police were at the scene for about three hours. He said police did not know how the crate, which measured about 1.5 feet wide, 3 feet long, and 8 inches deep, ended up on the sidewalk. Source: http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_bc3ad50e-25c4-11df-bc5c-001cc4c03286.html

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

FCC's new public safety proposal receives mixed response. Ever since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the United States has been trying to create a national, interoperable network for public safety. The plan encountered many hurdles, not least when the D Block of the 700 MHz band, earmarked for a public/private safety initiative, failed to reach its reserve price at auction in 2008. Now, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) chief has announced new plans to relaunch the plan, putting up to

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\$16 billion and more spectrum behind the proposals. A spokeswoman for Rethink Wireless's writes that some public safety groups are disappointed that the plan does not go further, while the wireless carrier community remains undecided on the plan. The FCC plans to re-auction the D Block, and will call on Congress to allocate \$12 billion to \$16 billion in funding over ten years to help build the network. The FCC also wants safety agencies to have access to the whole 700 MHz band, not only to the D Block. Verizon Wireless will soon start building its LTE network in the band, and AT&T has plans to do the same from 2011. Another major existing 700 MHz user is Qualcomm, for its MediaFLO mobile TV system. Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/fccs-new-public-safety-proposal-receives-mixed-response>

(Hawaii) Tsunami evacuation plan had glitches, state and county to examine. The phone book was the first place many people turned to Saturday after a tsunami evacuation warning to find out if they live in an evacuation zone. There were many complaints the maps were not specific enough but a member of County Civil Defense says, changes are coming, "the maps in the phone book were put in place in 1990, we are looking to put new models in the next year." For most, the biggest issue with the phone books maps is that you cannot look up your exact street address, but you can online. But during this tsunami warning several websites with evacuation maps were bogged down and some even crashed because of so much traffic, "the site did get slowed down....I am wondering how many hundreds of thousands of hit there were," he said. Some web pages like the Pacific Disaster Center are in the process of making their bandwidth more robust — saying this warning was a good test of their system. Online activity was at a peak, Hawaii News Now's website got 2 million views just on Saturday alone. Source: <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12066943>

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR

(California) Bomb squad determines package was harmless. A sheriff's bomb squad was called to check out a report of a suspicious package at a security company Friday. Several agencies, including Pasadena police and fire, the FBI, and a Burbank fire haz-mat team responded at about 11 a.m., after the owner of Smiths Detection in the 70 block of Vinedo, California, reported the package. Bomb squad members determined the package was harmless. Police closed off the south side of Vinedo for about three hours. According to the company's Web site, Smiths Detection "provides government-regulated technology products and advanced services to security experts and governments worldwide, to detect and identify CBRNE material and other dangerous or illegal objects." Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_14521262

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Taiwan quake shuts down some LCD suppliers. A significant earthquake that struck the island of Taiwan on the morning of March 3 has shut down several component suppliers to the LCD industry, although the damage appears to be limited. According to analysts, panel makers Chi Mei Optoelectronics and HannStar Display Corp. shut down after the quake, which measured 6.4 on the Richter scale. Avanstrate, a small glass supplier, also suffered damage at one of the company's tanks. All supply components to both notebook PC manufacturers, LCD monitor makers, and manufacturers of LCD TVs. More generally, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest foundry, said that it had lost the equivalent of 1.5 days of production, while rival UMC said it had lost between 1 and 1.5 days of production. Until the companies provide a more comprehensive damage

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assessment, it is unclear whether the effects will be a short-term blip or a more prolonged vacuum in the supply chain. An analyst for DisplaySearch wrote in a blog post, "...there are some indications that there will be another panel price increase in March due to the earthquake's impact on the supply chain." Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2360966,00.asp>

Nissan recalls more than 500,000 vehicles. On the heels of Toyota's long-running woes and GM's steering-related recall this week, Nissan has announced the recalling of 539,864 trucks, sport-utility vehicles and mini vans in North America and some Asian and European markets. Nissan says the affected models may have problems with brake pedal pins and fuel gauges. The company says it discovered a production error in the brake pedal pin, which could cause the pedal to disengage. It said it had three reports of that happening, but no reports of injuries. The fuel gauge problem could cause the affected vehicles to incorrectly indicate the amount of fuel remaining in the tank. Models affected by the pedal pin recall are the Infiniti QX56 SUV, Titan pickup truck, Armada SUV and Quest minivan. The Frontier pickup truck, Pathfinder and Xterra SUV may have the fuel gauge problem. Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2010/03/nissan_recall.html

Dept. of Transportation considers brake overrides. The Department of Transportation may recommend that every new vehicle sold in the U.S. be equipped with brakes that can override the gas pedal. The U.S. Transportation Secretary said Tuesday his agency may recommend that every new vehicle sold in the U.S. be equipped with brakes that can override the gas pedal. The idea seemed to be gaining support among lawmakers as Toyota officials returned for a third congressional hearing on lethal safety defects. His testimony came as federal safety officials increased to 52 the number of reported deaths linked to sudden acceleration in Toyota vehicles, through the end of last month. Previously, 34 deaths were blamed on the problem. Multiple recalls have damaged Toyota's reputation and set the stage for large numbers of death and injury lawsuits amid a criminal investigation by federal prosecutors in New York, a probe by the Securities and Exchange Commission and more scrutiny from the Transportation Department. Since September, Toyota has recalled about 6 million vehicles in the U.S. Toyota has said it will put such a system into all future vehicles and will retrofit many recalled models. More than 8 million Toyota cars have been recalled in all because of sudden acceleration or braking defects. Source: http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=news/national_world&id=7308264

GM to recall 1.3 million cars. General Motors said Monday that it will recall 1.3 million Chevrolet and Pontiac compact cars sold in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to fix power steering motors that can fail. The recall affects 2005 to 2010 Chevrolet Cobalts, 2007 to 2010 Pontiac G5s, 2005 and 2006 Pontiac Pursuits sold in Canada and 2005 and 2006 Pontiac G4s sold in Mexico. The automaker said the vehicles are still safe to drive and never lose their steering, but it may be harder to steer them when traveling under 15 mph. A GM spokesman said it will notify car owners when the parts are available. He said the failures are rare, and the cars can still be driven until motors can be replaced by dealers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began an investigation into 905,000 of the models January 27 after getting 1,100 complaints. Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/03/01/2006738/business-briefs-gm-to-recall-13.html>

Data shows Camrys not recalled also had problems. Toyota has recalled six million cars in the United States over concerns about sudden acceleration. But an analysis of government documents shows that many Toyota Camrys built before 2007, which were not subject to recalls, have been linked to a

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comparable number of speed-control problems as recalled Camrys. While owners of all makes of vehicles have filed complaints with the government about speed control problems, the analysis — based on a review of 12,700 complaint records in the United States over the last decade by The New York Times — reveals that Toyota had more complaints involving crashes than any other carmaker. Many of the complaints were about vehicles not covered by recalls. The 2002 Camry, for example, had about 175 speed-control complaints. Roughly half of those involved crashes. By comparison, the 2007 Camry, which was recalled, was the subject of about 200 speed-control complaints, with fewer than a quarter of those resulting in accidents. In all, federal safety regulators said they had received complaints alleging that unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles caused 34 deaths. All told, from 2000 through 2009, Toyota had one speed-control crash complaint per 20,454 vehicles sold in the United States. Ford had one complaint per 64,679 vehicles. Honda had one per 70,112 and G.M. one per 179,821. Asked about The Times's findings, a Toyota spokesman said on Monday that pre-2007 Camrys had been investigated and cleared of defects in three previous inquiries by the safety agency. "At the conclusion of these investigations, no specific evidence of a trend regarding safety issues was found," said the spokesman. Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/02/business/02toyota.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency communications center facing challenges. The Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC), still faces major challenges on a number of fronts in fully executing its mission, according to a report from the Government Accounting Office (GAO) prepared last month and released this week. The report, titled Emergency Communications: Establishment of the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center and Related Interagency Coordination Challenges, found that ECPC faces interagency coordination challenges in obtaining agreement among ECPC members on group decisions, gaining the acceptance of its stakeholders when promoting a strategy to achieve interoperable communications, providing and demonstrating value to its members, maturing as an interagency body, and working to define its relationships with other organizations with similar goals and objectives. GAO reviewed ECPC's Charter, documentation from agencies detailing their agreement with the charter, and rosters of ECPC's Executive and Steering Committees, as well as the Executive Committee Action Items list and OEC's progress report on goals and objectives contained in the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). The report's researchers also interviewed officials from 11 of the 12 member ECPC agencies. Source:

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/12399/149/>

(California) Hemet assassination plot follows national spike in police attacks. Two recent assassination attempts on Hemet, California, gang task-force officers add to a national trend of more brazen and sophisticated attacks on police, often by gang members, law enforcement experts say. The attacks on the Hemet-San Jacinto Gang Task Force headquarters come amid an increase of violence against police nationwide this year that could reverse a trend of declining officer deaths. Both attempts in Hemet failed, but were characterized as unusually violent. Last week, a bullet fired by an altered gun narrowly missed an officer opening a parking lot gate at the task force's building, a block from the police station. On New Year's Eve, the same building was targeted when a gas line was rerouted to rig the building to explode when officers stepped inside. Experts say attacks on a police facility, such as the ones against the Hemet Gang Task Force building, are nearly unheard of. The FBI has joined the task force in the investigation of the attacks. While Hemet police have not identified

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any suspects, they believe the threat may involve area gang members now under investigation. Nationally last year, 125 officers were killed, the lowest number since 1959. Already this year, 34 officers have been killed in the line of duty in shootings and traffic fatalities, including three in California in the past week. Source:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_W_attack03.4644056.html

(Florida) Police impersonator arrested; had badge and Crown Victoria with lights. A Pensacola, Florida, man allegedly pretending to be a cop was busted by the real thing Sunday at a Pensacola Taco Bell. He was charged with impersonating a police officer and unlawful use of a police badge. Escambia County Sheriff's deputies responded to a Taco Bell on Fairfield Drive Sunday morning in reference to a suspicious individual wearing a police insignia and driving a Ford Crown Victoria. "When deputies arrived, they observed [the man] driving a green Ford Crown Victoria as described by the caller and wearing a green police style jacket with Dixie County Sheriff's Office patches and a silver police style badge. A search of the suspect's vehicle revealed a toggle switch that operated strobe lights on the front of the vehicle," according to an Escambia Sheriff's Office press release. Source: <http://www.northescambia.com/?p=15032>

ENERGY

Nothing Significant to Report

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(Ohio) Nestlé Professional North America, a Cleveland, Ohio establishment, is recalling approximately 6,000 pounds of a ready-to-eat (RTE) bacon base product that may be contaminated with Salmonella. The packages of bacon base contain as an ingredient the specific Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein (HVP), which was previously recalled, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. The product subject to recall includes: 1-lb. plastic cups of "MINOR'S BACON BASE." Each package contains code numbers "92815489," "93095489," or "93385489" as well as the case code "00 074826 08606 7-00 G 11003264." Each case contains 6 cups and bears establishment number "1045" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The RTE product was distributed nationwide to distributors and restaurants. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with the consumption of these products.

Source:

<http://www.wtkr.com/news/wtkr-bacon-recall-mar8,0,3337693.story>

(Idaho) **Idaho invasive species report released.** A report from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture shows the state worked to fight a variety of invasive species last year, including quagga and zebra mussels, potato cyst nematode and other pests. The department partnered with the Idaho Department of Lands to spend more than \$120,000 trapping gypsy moths, which it describes as a destructive defoliator of forest and shade trees. The Agriculture Department also distributed about 428,000 pounds of bait to private landowners looking to fight Mormon cricket infestations. The Times-News reports that a department entomologist says the report shows the department can accomplish quite a bit even in tight budget years. Source:

<http://www.fox12idaho.com/Global/story.asp?S=12090493>

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Food-borne illnesses in U.S. cost \$152B annually. Food-borne illnesses cost the United States an estimated \$152 billion each year in health-related expenses, much more than previously thought, a new report contends. “These costs are significantly more than previous official estimates, and it demonstrates the serious burden that food-borne illness places on society,” the director of the Food Safety Campaign at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C., said during a Tuesday press conference. Although most of these costs are due to unidentified germs, infections from well-known pathogens play a large role. For example, costs related to campylobacter exceed \$18.8 billion annually; costs linked to salmonella are estimated at \$14.6 billion; and costs related to listeria are \$8.8 billion, according to the report. The majority of food-borne illnesses are caused by produce, which are regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Thirty-nine percent of E. coli outbreaks were due to produce regulated by the FDA, the report said. According to the report, California, Texas, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania have the highest costs related to food-borne illness, ranging from \$6.7 billion to \$18.6 billion each year. Source:
<http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/636595.html>

Kroger recalls beef products for E. coli. Between February 18 and 24, 2010, Kroger, the country’s largest grocery store chain, recalled five separate beef products for potential E. coli O157:H7 contamination. The recall information is listed on the company’s Web site, but in very limited detail. According to the Kroger Web site, burritos and tamales containing beef potentially contaminated with E. coli O157:H7 were distributed under the Little Juan, Tina’s, Don Miguel, XLNT, and Deli names. Retailers distributing these brands are Smith’s Food and Drug, Ralphs, Food 4 Less, King Soopers, QFC, and Fry’s. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), however, does not have these corresponding products or brands listed on their current recall list, which FSIS policy mandates. The current recalls listed on the Kroger site would fall under the Class I category. Source:
<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/03/kroger-recalls-beef-products/>

(Delaware) Suspicious package prompts evacuation of DE homes. Delaware State Police say a suspicious package found in a Wilmington doughnut shop parking lot has prompted the evacuation of about 30 homes. State police say the package was found in the parking lot of a Dunkin Donuts on Kirkwood Highway about 3 p.m. Sunday and the store and the parking lot have also been closed until the package can be deemed safe. State police say Saint James Drive at Old Capitol Trail has been closed and they are asking motorists to take alternate routes around the scene. Source:
<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=delmarvanow&sParam=32919485.story>

(Texas; New York; Massachusetts) American Pecan Co. recalls pecans because of possible health risk. The FDA released the following statement: American Pecan Co. of Yancey, Texas, is recalling 1 lb. bags of Pecan Pieces, small, medium, and large sizes, because they have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. The 1 lb. bags of pecans were sold to walk-up customers at their Yancey, Texas location, as well as to mail order customers in Texas, New York, and Massachusetts. The bagged pecans consist of Ziploc-type bags labeled with “PECAN PIECES (Small, Medium, or Large) Ingredients: Shelled Pecans: Repacked by: American Pecan Co. P.O. Box 151 Yancey, Texas. 78886 Net weight 1-Lb. (16 oz.) 454 g. Might contain Pecan shells.” There are no codes associated with the products. No illnesses have been reported to date. Source:
<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm202292.htm>

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GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(Texas) Airman with shotgun disarmed at Sheppard AFB. An airman in training at Sheppard Air Force Base was in military custody Monday after toting a shotgun outside a dormitory. A spokesman for the base said no shots were fired and nobody was hurt during the incident Sunday night. Base security forces received a call shortly after 9 p.m. about a man with a weapon outside a barracks that houses male and female personnel, he said. The spokesman said security confronted the airman and he dropped the shotgun. The spokesman declined to release the airman's identity or say why he armed himself. However, he said investigators determined that there was no overall threat to base security, and the airman was to receive "psychological counseling and help." The base was shut down shortly after the incident, but the spokesman said it reopened shortly before midnight and there was no impact on the training. The base is home to the 82nd Training Wing and the 80th Flying Training Wing. Source: <http://www.statesman.com/news/texas/airman-with-shotgun-disarmed-at-sheppard-afb-329816.html>

(Nevada) Man's threats bring out bomb squad at Nellis Air Force Base. A man made a threat at the front gate of Nellis Air Force Base, forcing part of the base to go on lockdown for a few hours Friday. A man is in FBI custody, being questioned for making those threats. Action News was there all of Friday afternoon and evening as a bomb squad worked to keep airmen and civilians safe. The main gate at Nellis Air Force base was closed for several hours after Air force officials say an elderly man made a verbal threat to the gate guard around 3pm Friday. "The security forces responded according to established procedures. They took the individual into custody, and then investigated the scene," reported an official with Nellis Air Force Base. Part of that investigation included the base's Explosive Ordinance Disposal or EOD. The EOD robot did its part to inspect the vehicle, shaking out anything that might look dangerous, and dogs sniffed for other explosives. The man responsible for the threats was handed over to Metro Police. Once in custody, Metro says the man now calls the threat a joke. Source: <http://www.ktnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12094540>

(New York) Suspicious white powder sent to Brooklyn judge forces evacuation. A suspicious white powder sent to a Brooklyn judge Thursday forced the evacuation of the 24th floor of the Supreme Court building. The powder, which is still being tested, was sent to a Justice, the same judge who last week signed off on the controversial Atlantic Yards redevelopment project. On Thursday, the judge was presiding over the trial of a Staten Island doctor charged with peddling steroids. Authorities would not comment but sources say at least one person was "decontaminated" and court officers were not allowing anyone on the 24th floor. Dozens of emergency services vehicles and fire trucks lined outside the Jay Street building in downtown Brooklyn. Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/03/04/2010-03-04_suspicious_white_powder_sent_to_bklyn_judge_forces_evacuation.html

DoD to reduce use of Social Security numbers. The Defense Department is preparing to launch a militarywide effort to reduce the use of Social Security numbers to lower the chances of identity theft for military and civilian workers and contractors. But the announcement, included in the March 3 Federal Register, makes clear that stopping the use of Social Security numbers altogether is not feasible. The SSN is a prize to identity thieves, but it also has become ingrained in various military

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uses that can't be fully eliminated, defense officials said. They are proposing new regulations calling for a complete review of military records and reports to determine when the number isn't necessary. In phases, starting in 1969 and ending in 1974, Social Security numbers replaced service numbers as the primary identifier and authenticator of military personnel. Expanded use of SSNs has increased efficiency and allowed Defense Department information systems and processes to work together and transfer data "with a greatly reduced chance of errors," officials said in the notice of proposed regulations. But the threat of identity theft, they said, "has rendered this widespread use unacceptable," resulting in the requirement that all federal agencies evaluate how SSNs are used and eliminate their unnecessary use. Source:

http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2010/03/military_socialsecuritynumbers_030310w/

(Virginia) Suspected gunman in Pentagon shooting acted alone, officials say. The California man who calmly opened fire on two police officers at an entrance to the Pentagon Thursday appears to have acted alone and was not connected to any terrorist plot, the Pentagon police chief said. The shooter, identified as a 36-year-old, was dressed in a business suit and carried two semiautomatic weapons and "many magazines" of ammunition, the police chief said. "He walked very directly to the officers and engaged," the police chief said. Two officers were superficially wounded, one in the shoulder and one in the thigh. Both were treated at George Washington University Hospital in Northwest Washington and released. They and a third officer returned fire at the suspect, critically wounding him in the head, said the chief of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency. The suspect died at George Washington University Hospital. Federal law enforcement sources identified the guns allegedly used by the suspect as a Sturm 9mm and a Taurus 9mm. Investigators are tracing the origins of the weapons and checking to see whether the suspect had permits for them. Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/05/AR2010030500957.html?hpid=topnews>

(Florida) No explosives found in package that led to evacuation of 10-story building. Officials say a suspicious package that led to the evacuation of a 10-story government building on Florida's Gulf coast was nothing explosive or suspicious. A brown bag with something inside was found propped up against a door near the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office at around 11:30 a.m. Tuesday. The building also contains the courthouse and other government offices. Roads around the building were sealed off so that no vehicular traffic is allowed nearby; traffic is now flowing again. Source:

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20100303/NEWS/100309935/1374?Title=No-Explosives-Found-in-Package-That-Led-to-Evacuation-of-10-Story-Building>

(North Carolina) Bomb found at courthouse. A bomb shaped like a coffee can, covered with duct tape and filled with gunpowder along with what look like shotgun pellets, was found in the trunk of a car at about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday morning at the Newton government center. The car, a silver Toyota Corolla, belongs to a 43-year-old woman from Newton. The woman was arrested and charged with animal cruelty on February 23 after the remains of at least six horses were found in and around a pasture she had leased. It is not known if the bomb incident is related to the animal cruelty charges, said the chief of the Newton Police Department. The bomb was found after Newton officers went to the woman's home at about 10 p.m. Tuesday in response to a report that she had been assaulted and threatened by a friend. Source:

<http://www2.hickoryrecord.com/content/2010/mar/04/bomb-found-courthouse/news/>

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(North Carolina) Student charged for false bomb threat. A 16-year-old student was charged with making a false bomb report at Currituck County High School last month. The Currituck County Sheriff's Office investigated a report of a bomb threat on Feb. 9 about 1:35 p.m. The threat was that a bomb attack would take place, according to a news release by a law enforcement spokeswoman. A school resource officer from the sheriff's office and high school staff discovered who the caller was, a student, charged him with making a false bomb report on a public building and seized a computer at the student's home. He was given a first appearance on February 17. Source:

<http://www.dailyadvance.com/news/student-arrested-bomb-threat-school-16878>

(Michigan) Drano bomb goes off in Detroit school. Students at Phoenix Multicultural School on Detroit's southwest side were evacuated Wednesday morning after a "Drano bomb" detonated inside the building, said authorities. The explosive device, made of household cleaning chemicals, went off in the hallway of the building at about 8:30 a.m., sending fumes into the air, said a school official. School officials said no students were injured because they were all inside classrooms. "The device itself could have caused a lot of damage if there were a lot of children around when the device actually went off. Those types of bombs are very, very unstable", said a police inspector with the DPD Bomb squad. Police said the 540 students at the K-8 school were immediately evacuated, and many were forced out into the cold without their coats. The students were bused to Roberto Clemente School in Detroit, which is located at 1551 Beard Street. Parents are asked to pick them up there at the end of the day. School is expected to resume at Phoenix Multicultural Thursday. A 14-year-old student is in police custody. Homeland security agents were at the scene with bomb-sniffing dogs, and have given the all clear. An investigation into how the student brought the device into the building is under way. Source: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/22726704/detail.html>

(Washington) Tacoma Public Utilities evacuated for hazmat. The Tacoma Fire Dept said a customer came into the lobby of Tacoma Public Utilities building at 2:45 p.m. Friday afternoon with an envelope containing a disconnection bill. The envelope also contained cash and white powder, which spilled out of the envelope. The lobby and part of the building was evacuated, and fire and hazmat crews are waiting to go inside in the lobby to investigate. Source:

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/22687621/detail.html>

(Ohio) Suspicious package found in Athens. All is clear in the City of Athens after a suspicious package was reported in the city parking garage this morning. The Athens Police Department received the call around 9:30 a.m. and a press release indicates the incident forced the evacuation and closure of the Athens City Law Director's office and the Athens City building. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic also was blocked on several streets surrounding the parking garage. The Columbus Bomb squad was called in to examine the package and found that it did not pose a safety threat. Everything was re-opened around 1:30 p.m. The City of Athens indicates it does not know where the package came from. The incident remains under investigation. Source:

<http://www.whiznews.com/content/news/local/2010/03/01/suspicious-package-found-in-athens>

(Connecticut) Bomb threats clear schools. Coop High students took an unplanned field trip to the Shubert Monday, as police cleared two New Haven schools — one of them twice — after someone called bomb threats into 911. The first call came in around 10 a.m. The caller said "the new high school" would blow up within the hour. Cops converged on Co-op, on College Street. The school sent

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the kids a block away to the Shubert theater to hang out until cops cleared the building. The kids swarmed back into the building around 11. Police also checked the New Haven Academy building on Bradley Street, just in case. Officials did not clear NHA to conduct the check. Meanwhile, police received a second similar threat, about New Horizons School for Higher Achievement on Hallock Avenue in the Hill. The kids were cleared out, the building checked. The kids were returned to the building without incident, according to schools spokeswoman. But the kids had to go back out an hour later. Another bomb threat was called in. At press time police were checking the building again. According to a police spokesman all the calls came from the same cell phone number. Police Monday afternoon were in the process of tracking down the caller. Source:

http://newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/bomb_threats_clear_schools/id_24101

(California) Threat closes 4 Stockton schools. Four Stockton-area schools were shut down Friday as a safety precaution after a bomb threat that police said did not appear to be credible. Parents received automated calls stating that a threat had been made against a handful of schools and Delta College. A caller phoned in the threat to police at about 3 a.m. Lincoln Unified School District said the threat did not appear to be credible, but “out of an abundance of caution” the district released students at 8:15 a.m. from the following campuses: Lincoln High School, Sture Larsson High School, John McCandless Center, and Sierra Middle School. About 3,000 students at those schools were sent home. Classes continued at other Lincoln Unified campuses. Stockton Unified School District also assessed the threat, but classes went on as usual. Source: <http://www.kcra.com/news/22682304/detail.html>

(Washington) Brewster police arrest teen, seize guns after Facebook conversation. Police arrested a Brewster, Washington, High School boy Saturday and seized guns after investigating a tip that he wrote about plans for a school shooting on Facebook. The 17-year-old boy was booked into the Okanogan County Juvenile Detention Center on suspicion of conspiracy to commit first-degree assault. The “shooting spree” was being planned for sometime in 2011, according to the news release from the Brewster Police Chief. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the tip came from parents of a 14-year-old girl from Port Alberni, British Columbia, who had contact with the Brewster boy on Facebook. “We initially thought she was a suspect, but we’ve eliminated her as a suspect at this time,” said a spokesman with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Port Alberni, about 100 miles west of Vancouver, British Columbia. He said the Brewster teenager asked the girl in a Facebook conversation to attend his high school and shoot people. The boy indicated he had a date set, and already had the weapons. The spokesman said he did not know what school was being targeted. Brewster police did not determine what school the boy may have been planning to target, but “the administrations of possible schools involved have been notified,” the Brewster news release stated. Source: <http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2010/mar/01/brewster-police-arrest-teen-seize-guns-after/>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Energizer Bunny’s software infects PCs. The Energizer Bunny infects PCs with backdoor malware, the Department of Homeland Security’s US-CERT said on March 5. According to researchers at US-CERT (United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team), software that accompanies the Energizer DUO USB battery charger contains a Trojan horse that gives hackers total access to a Windows PC. The Energizer DUO, a USB-powered nickel-metal hydride battery recharger, has been discontinued, said Energizer Holdings, which late on March 5 confirmed that the software contains malicious code. The

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company has not said how the Trojan made its way into the software, however. “Energizer is currently working with both CERT and U.S. government officials to understand how the code was inserted in the software,” Energizer said in a statement. Energizer’s DUO was sold in the U.S., Latin America, Europe and Asia starting in 2007. Source:

<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/030810-energizer-bunnys-software-infests.html?hpg1=bn>

Tool automates targeted attacks on social network users. A researcher on March 4 released a free tool that impersonates a Twitter user’s account in order to execute automated targeted attacks on the person’s followers. A security researcher with Core Security Labs, says the group wrote the tool as a way to demonstrate and test for how social networks can be used for spear phishing. The initial version executes attacks on Twitter, but the researcher says it can be extended to work against Facebook and other social networks. The tool is based on Core’s Exomind, an experimental Python-based framework written to test social network, search engines, and instant messaging attacks. The researcher says the goal is to provide organizations with a tool for social networking security training, penetration testing, or just to show how these attacks could work. Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/insiderthreat/security/client/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223101626>

DOD’s reliance on commercial satellites hits new zenith. The U.S. military is increasingly turning to the private sector for many of the services it relies on. After the supply of energy and terrestrial fiber communications, satellite communications is the top capability that the U.S. military relies on the private sector to deliver. Industry experts estimate that 80 percent of all satellite bandwidth that the Defense Department uses is purchased by the Defense Information Systems Agency from companies such as Inmarsat, Intelsat and Iridium. That percentage is expected to climb north of 90 percent in the near future as unmanned aerial vehicles and other intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) systems begin transmitting in high definition, which will require even more bandwidth. New satellite constellations, such as the Mobile User Objective System (MUOS), are expected to take up some of the slack. However, the need for supplemental bandwidth is expected to continue growing during the time that the five MUOS satellites are put into orbit between 2010 and 2015. DOD leaders might have legitimate concerns about the department’s dependence on the private sector for such a vital tactical capability. Source: <http://fcw.com/articles/2010/03/03/cover-story-the-satcom-challenge.aspx>

Wi-Fi could lead thieves right to your laptop. Stuffing a company laptop into the car trunk or even a locker, without turning off its Wi-Fi radio, can be an open invitation to thieves, according to Credant Technologies. Thieves with increasingly sophisticated, directional Wi-Fi detectors can home in on the laptop’s radio, tracking it down even when the PC is hidden away. A statement by the mobile security software vendor highlighted a recent warning from a security specialist at University of Technology, in Jamaica. He said that it appeared crooks running a lottery scam on the island were using stolen laptops to do so. They tracked down the often out-of-sight computers using Wi-Fi radio detectors. The detectors, sometimes called “Wi-Fi finders,” are readily and inexpensively available. But many of them simply register the presence and strength of Wi-Fi signals, such as those from public hotspots. Depending on the features, the detector may not be very helpful in finding a precise location, for example, an active laptop radio in an automobile parked with a lot of others. But Hawking Technologies’ Hi-Gain WiFi Locator Professional Edition includes a high-gain antenna that can more precisely locate a Wi-Fi radio. Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/190674/wifi_could_lead_thieves_right_to_your_laptop.html

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Source code management a weak spot in Aurora attacks. Companies should take extra steps to secure their source code from the type of targeted attacks that hit Google, Adobe, Intel and others over the past few months. That's according to security vendor McAfee, which released a report detailing the way software source code was accessed in some of these attacks. "We saw targeted attacks against software configuration management products," said McAfee's chief technology officer (CTO.) In many of the attacks company engineers and technical staff were targeted with malicious software. And in some cases, source code management systems were accessed and code was downloaded outside of company firewalls, the CTO said. "These systems are designed so you can have multiple people around the world working on them," he said. That often gives the bad guys several ways to get into the code. To make matters worse, source code management systems "are underprotected and not very well monitored," he said. That means that they could make easy targets in future attacks. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9165718/Source_code_management_a_weak_spot_in_Aurora_attacks

Spain busts global botnet masterminds. Spanish police have arrested three men accused of masterminding one of the biggest computer crimes to date — infecting more than 13 million PCs with a virus that stole credit card numbers and other data. The men were suspected of running the Mariposa botnet, named after the Spanish word for butterfly, Spain's Civil Guard said on March 2. A press conference to give more details is scheduled for March 3. Mariposa had infected machines in 190 countries in homes, government agencies, schools, more than half of the world's 1,000 largest companies and at least 40 big financial institutions, according to two Internet security firms that helped Spanish officials crack the ring. The security firms — Defense Intelligence Inc. of Canada and Panda Security S.L. of Spain — did not say how much money the hackers had stolen from their victims before the ring was shut down on December 23. Security experts said the cost of removing malicious program from 13 million machines could run into tens of millions of dollars. Mariposa was programmed to secretly take control of infected machines, recruiting them as "slaves" in an army known as a "botnet." It would steal login credentials and record every key stroke on an infected computer and send the data to a "command and control center," where the ringleaders stored it.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6214ST20100303>

More than half of applications are vulnerable to security breaches, as Microsoft confirms it is looking into an issue regarding malicious content hosting. More than half of the internally developed, open source, outsourced and commercial applications are vulnerable to security breaches. A report by Veracode claims that of the 1,600 applications analyzed when first submitted, 58 percent contained vulnerabilities similar to those exploited in the recent cyber attacks on Google and others. Despite the claim about vulnerabilities in open source software, the report did find that it 'has comparable security, faster remediation times and fewer potential backdoors than commercial or outsourced software'. However it found that 40 percent of all applications submitted at the request of large enterprises were from third-parties, and more than 30 percent of all internally developed applications also included identifiable commercial, open source and outsource code.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/more-than-half-of-applications-are-vulnerable-to-security-breaches-as-microsoft-confirms-it-is-looking-into-an-issue-regarding-malicious-content-hosting/article/164818/>

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Sony blames leap year glitch for PlayStation troubles. Sony has restored service to the PlayStation Network by resolving a glitch in the internal clock of some PlayStation 3 consoles that recognized 2010 as a leap year and wrongly added a February 29 to the clock. The glitch, which harkens back to the Y2K bug, affected millions of users around the world, preventing many from accessing Sony's PlayStation Network. People with the new, slim PS3 consoles were not affected by the problem. The PlayStation Network boasts over 40 million registered users, according to the site. Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9164059/Sony blames leap year glitch for PlayStation troubles](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9164059/Sony_blames_leap_year_glitch_for_PlayStation_troubles)

Spam continues to surge as URL filtering fails to spot malicious sites. Spam has continued to surge in the early months of 2010, as pornography remains the most prevalent threat vector. In Symantec's February 2010 MessageLabs Intelligence Report, analysis revealed a surge in spam levels in February to 89.4 percent, an increase of 5.5 percent from January. It put this down to an increase in spam emanating from the Grum and Rustock botnets, with the former's output increasing by 51 percent to make it responsible for 26 percent of all spam, up from its usual 17 percent. Fortinet's threatscape report for February revealed that pornography was the highest message tactic used in spam campaigns, with 63.6 percent of messages using this vector. It also detected that of threat traffic detected, 84 percent was malware, 15 percent spyware and only one per cent was phishing. As to who was behind these attack campaigns, it said that it knew that the engine driving the record-breaking spam runs was Cutwail, as some of the more prevalent spam campaigns driven by Cutwail distribute scareware/ransomware and it is popular because of the high amounts of profits available to cyber criminals. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/spam-continues-to-surge-as-url-filtering-fails-to-spot-malicious-sites/article/164820/>

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

Forest Service: Information on Appeals, Objections, and Litigation Involving Fuel Reduction Activities, Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008. On March 4, GAO released the report, "Forest Service: Information on Appeals, Objections, and Litigation Involving Fuel Reduction Activities, Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008." Increases in the number and intensity of wildland fires in the national forests have led the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service to place greater emphasis on thinning forests and rangelands to reduce the buildup of potentially hazardous vegetation that can fuel wildland fires. GAO found that in fiscal years 2006 through 2008, the Forest Service issued 1,415 decisions involving fuel reduction activities, covering 10.5 million acres. Of this total, 1,191 decisions, covering about 9 million acres, were subject to appeal and 217 — about 18 percent — were appealed. Another 121 decisions, covering about 1.2 million acres, were subject to objection and 49 — about 40 percent — were objected to. The remaining 103 decisions were exempt from both objection and appeal. Finally, 29 decisions — about 2 percent of all decisions — were litigated, involving about 124,000 acres. Critics have asserted that such challenges to agency activities are stopping or unnecessarily slowing the decision-making processes of the Forest Service and its efforts to reduce fuels on federal lands. Source: <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d10337.html>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(Iowa) Four detained in Cedar Falls mailbox explosion. Several houses were damaged Saturday night after teenagers detonated a homemade bomb in a mailbox in a western Cedar Falls neighborhood.

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Three 18-year-olds were arrested and a 17-year-old was taken into custody on arson charges following the event. The homemade device exploded inside a mailbox at 1029 Barrington Drive sometime between 10:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Saturday. The bomb, which Cedar Falls Police said was made with pellets and black powder, exploded inside the mailbox and sent shrapnel through the neighborhood. Five homes were damaged, including pellets through siding, one broken window and two garage doors that took significant damage. Some vehicles parked in the neighborhood were also damaged. Police said no one was injured in the blast. The incident was not reported until Sunday morning. Source: http://www.wfcourier.com/news/local/article_15db2380-2ace-11df-8136-001cc4c03286.html

(Georgia) Powdery substance causes scare in Gilmer County, again. For the second straight day, Gilmer County dealt with a scare over an envelope containing suspicious white powder Wednesday. Both incidents appear to be hoaxes. The envelope found Wednesday morning at Gilmer County High School in Ellijay prompted officials to close school for the day while authorities investigate. The FBI, GBI, and a hazardous materials team from Cherokee County were still at the scene in the afternoon. On Tuesday, a similar envelope was found at the Gilmer County courthouse. "They investigated and found that was just a hoax, not a volatile substance," said a spokesman for Gilmer County schools. "People processing the mail this morning at Gilmer County High School came across another envelope with a powdery substance. Same M.O., same handwriting. Looks very similar." By Wednesday evening, the spokesman said the substance found at the school was determined to be nothing dangerous or hazardous. It is being sent to a lab for further analysis, he said. School was closed due to snow Tuesday and scheduled to start two hours late Wednesday. As students and staff arrived, they were told to go home. Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/powdery-substance-causes-scare-344265.html>

(Colorado) Colo. man arrested in white powder mailings. FBI agents have arrested a Denver area man suspected of sending white powder to multiple governmental offices including the offices of a U.S. Senator, an Eldorado Springs Democrat, a Denver Democrat; and the offices of two Representatives, one a Denver Democrat; and the other an Aurora Republican. The 41 year-old suspect, of Denver, Colorado, was charged by Criminal Complaint for mailing a threatening letter to a victim on February 15, 2008. The suspect was arrested by agents with the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service late Friday night, February 26. Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=12065670>

(Ohio) Deputies seeking anonymous caller in hoax bomb threat. An anonymous call prompted a search and evacuation of the New Carlisle Post Office Monday, March 1, but Clark County Sheriff's deputies did not find anything suspicious, according to a press release. "We're looking at it as a prank call," said a police spokesman. At 9:20 a.m. Monday, an anonymous caller told a 911 dispatcher there was a bomb in the post office, located at 107 W. Lake Ave. "There's a bomb in the New Carlisle Post Office," the caller said. "I put it there. Boom." The caller then hung up; the call could not be traced, according to the sheriff's office. "Once we reviewed the tape a few times we realized that it was probably a young person and at that time we started treating it like a prank call," he said. Deputies performed an "extensive search" of the building's exterior — including vehicles in the lot, mail boxes and Dumpsters — and inside the post office, including the building and its contents. Nothing suspicious was found, according to the release, and deputies had left the scene by 10:30 a.m. The Clark County Sheriff's Office is continuing its investigation into the threat. Source:

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<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/crime/deputies-seeking-anonymous-caller-in-hoax-bomb-threat-573486.html>

(Utah) **Official: Substance at Utah IRS bldg not hazardous.** An official with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service says a suspicious substance found at an IRS building in Ogden, Utah, is not hazardous. The FBI's Salt Lake City division said Monday that hazardous materials crews were called to the IRS building about 35 miles north of Salt Lake City to respond to a possible hazardous material threat. Parts of the building were evacuated. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service national spokesman told The Associated Press the "matter was non-hazardous." The FBI says some people had medical emergencies but that they did not appear related to the incident. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h-jWmAd7lmAzNcxUE9gDXq9c3BCwD9E653380>

PUBLIC HEALTH

Biggest swine flu regret for U.S.: vaccine chaos. First, people were clamoring for H1N1 vaccines, but there were not enough to go around. By the time vaccines were available in any quantity, most of the public had lost interest. And no one knew just how unpredictable the production of vaccines would turn out to be, top U.S. public health leaders agreed on Friday. Getting the U.S. public to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated was definitely one of the biggest challenges to managing the pandemic of H1N1 swine flu, speaker after speaker agreed at a conference on influenza regrets. "The truth is for this pandemic we had about the longest warning we might ever have for a potential biothreat," said the head of preparedness at the Health and Human Services Department. The CDC estimates H1N1 has killed about 12,000 Americans, and possibly as many as 17,000. It put 250,000 into the hospital. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6244LN20100305>

Travelers from Haiti bringing malaria to U.S. Health experts watching for signs of a malaria outbreak have noticed several cases of the mosquito-borne disease among people traveling back from Haiti, where an earthquake in January killed as many as 300,000 people. So far, 11 laboratory-confirmed cases of malaria have been reported among emergency responders and those traveling in the United States from Haiti, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday. Haiti already had a problem with malaria, which is spread by mosquitoes that will have more places to breed in the cities and towns wrecked by the giant quake. Each year, Haiti reports about 30,000 confirmed cases of malaria to the Pan American Health Organization, but the CDC estimates as many as 200,000 may occur each year. Three cases the CDC cited occurred among Haitian residents traveling to the United States and one case involved a U.S. resident who was visiting Haiti. All are expected to recover fully. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6234BU20100304>

(Maryland) **Experts find flaws in planning for Md. Army biolab.** The Army failed to fully analyze the risk of public exposure to deadly pathogens from a biodefense laboratory under construction at Fort Detrick, a National Academy of Sciences panel said. But rather than recommending a halt to the \$680 million project, as some critics would like, the experts urged the Army to improve its risk assessment for such projects in the future. Workers broke ground in August for the new U.S. Army Medical Institute of Infectious Diseases, about 2 1/2 years after federal regulators approved an environmental impact statement that was the focus of the committee's review. The labs are scheduled to open in

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May 2014, replacing crowded facilities built in the 1960s. Despite the shortcomings in risk analysis, the panel found that safety procedures and regulations at the existing labs meet or exceed accepted standards, which the panel says provides a high degree of confidence that workers and the public are protected. Source: <http://wjz.com/local/panel.lab.regs.2.1537179.html>

(Pennsylvania) Man charged in bomb threat. A 42-year-old Lemoyne, Pennsylvania, man has been arrested in connection with a bomb threat against the Medical Arts Building on the campus of Holy Spirit Hospital. East Pennsboro Township police say the man made the threat to a local radio station last week and was identified as a suspect during a review of phone records. He undergoes treatment in the Medical Arts Building and, during the phone threat, referred to himself as “The American Savior,” police said. He was charged Tuesday with terroristic threats and false alarms to agencies of public safety. He was committed to Cumberland County Prison and released after posting \$25,000 straight bail. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for March 15. The February 24 threat forced the evacuation of the Medical Arts Building and the nearby Camp Hill Center for about 90 minutes. Source: <http://www.whtm.com/news/stories/0310/712190.html>

FDA sees increasing number of insulin pump problems. The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday it has seen an increasing number of hardware and software problems with insulin pumps, tiny devices worn by thousands of diabetics to deliver insulin. “Device problems critical to insulin pumps exist across manufacturers,” the agency said, noting there have been 18 recalls of devices over a five-year period, including recalls by a Roche Holding AG unit and Medtronic Inc. The FDA is convening an advisory panel of outside medical experts on Friday to discuss what actions might be taken to “minimize risks associated with the devices in these recall situations.” Background materials for the meeting were posted on the FDA’s Web site Wednesday. The agency didn’t single out specific manufacturers, which also include a Johnson & Johnson unit. Insulin pumps are primarily used by people with Type I diabetes. Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703862704575099961829258070.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

(Virginia) Suspicious mail package closes facility. Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation were investigating an incident at the Stephens City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Tuesday in Winchester, Virginia, after a suspicious package led to the facility to being closed for safety precautions. The medical facility is one of six outpatient clinics operated for and by the Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which closed the facility located at 170 Prosperity Drive at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday to ensure the safety of both patients and staff after the suspicious package was discovered, according to a news release from the facility. No further information is available pending final investigation of the incident, the release stated. Source: <http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/532668.html?nav=5006>

(Washington) Suspicious briefcase found empty at Bellingham Health Center. A suspicious briefcase left at Interfaith Community Health Center Tuesday, March 2, was found empty by Bellingham Police. Officers from the Hazardous Devices Unit had evacuated the building, located at 220 Unity St., after the suspicious briefcase was found with an attached note. The note, which was quite lengthy, did not issue any threats but instead expressed displeasure with Interfaith and its services, said a Bellingham Police spokesman. Officers are working to gather suspect information. Source:

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http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/03/02/1318288/bellingham-health-center-evacuated.html?storylink=omni_popular

TRANSPORTATION

(District of Columbia) A plane violates DC airspace, lands in Roanoke. A private plane violated DC airspace and was forced to land in Roanoke. According to WSLs-TV's NBC affiliate in Washington, the FAA says two F-16s scrambled into action this morning when the small plane entered a no fly-zone. A spokesperson from the North American Aerospace Defense Command says the F-16s intercepted the plane and asked the pilot to change his frequency to talk to the FAA tower. The plane then landed in Roanoke where the FAA was expected to talk to the pilot. According to Roanoke Police, the local field office of the FBI is handling the investigation. No word if any arrests have been made. An FAA spokesperson says the incident does not seem like a threat. Source:

http://www2.wsls.com/sls/news/local/article/a_plane_violates_dc_airspace_lands_in_roanoke/85843/

Boeing 747 survives simulated 'Flight 253' bomb blast. A test explosion on a Boeing 747 has shown that a US Christmas Day flight would have landed safely even if a bomb on board was detonated successfully. The plane's fuselage did not break in the controlled blast, which used the same explosives that were on Flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit. However experts said it showed the suspected bomber and the passenger next to him would have been killed. The controlled experiment was carried out for the BBC Two documentary, How safe are our Skies? Detroit Flight 253. An international terrorism and explosives adviser to the UN replicated the conditions on board the Detroit flight on a decommissioned Boeing 747 at an aircraft graveyard in Gloucestershire, England. The same amount of the explosive pentaerythritol (or PETN) allegedly carried by the terrorist was placed to mirror the location where he was sitting on the plane. Researchers concluded that the quantity of explosive used was nowhere near enough needed to rupture the skin of a passenger plane. Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/8547329.stm

(Illinois) Authorities investigate railroad's wire theft. Authorities are looking for the person or people who stole more than 15,000 feet of insulated solid copper wire from telephone poles near railroad tracks in Genoa, Illinois. The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was contacted Feb. 26 by the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad regarding the missing wire. The wire was pulled off telephone poles that run parallel to the railroad tracks between Route 23 and Roosevelt Road north of Route 72, according to a Crime Stoppers news release from the sheriff's office. That wire carries information from the railroad's dispatch center to the railroad signals. The railroad sent an employee out to look at the tracks after receiving a notice that the signals were malfunctioning, a DM&E Railroad spokesman said. The wire was taken from about a mile of track, he said. The wiring was part of a redundancy the railroad has in its communication system, he said, and the railroad can operate without it. But the company's safety margin increases when the wiring is in place and functioning properly. Source: <http://www.daily-chronicle.com/articles/2010/03/04/12356108/index.xml>

(Idaho) Local airports say Austin crash would be difficult to prevent. Directors of Nampa's and Caldwell's airports say little could be done at their facilities to prevent a tragedy like the one that took place last month in Austin, Texas. On February 18, a man crashed his small plane into an Austin office building that housed federal employees. The pilot and an office worker died. The directors said

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their airports would be hard pressed to prevent a similar action from happening there. "The guy owned the airplane, so that's pretty hard to catch," one director said. "How in the world can you police something like that?" The director said the Caldwell Airport keeps names of owners of hangars and people who have planes tied down there. But he said the airport does not keep track of takeoffs and landings, and pilots do not file flight plans unless they are traveling across the country. Both airports urge pilots to follow an airport watch program to keep an eye out for suspicious behavior. But since the Austin pilot had not exhibited any unusual actions at the airport out of which he flew, even that program probably would not have stopped him. Source:

http://www.idahopress.com/news/article_0023a002-25c5-11df-8bf1-001cc4c03286.html

(Arizona) Hazmat situation at Sky Harbor Airport's Terminal 3. While TSA agents were screening bags at Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix Monday morning, they saw a puff of smoke from a piece of luggage. The fire department was called and found the item to be medical equipment. Firefighters found it was a type of bottle of chloride used for medical testing. It broke and caused the vapors. Crews evacuated the immediate area, but not the entire terminal. "We've traveled with it before but it's never broke in the container, so this has never been a problem," says the suitcase owner. Airport authorities say it was not hazardous and no airport operations were affected. Source:

http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/local/phoenix/hazmat_phx_sky_harbor_030110

(North Carolina) Men arrested for stealing railroad spikes. Sheriff's deputies caught and arrested two men February 28th for stealing railroad spikes from railroad tracks belonging to the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The local sheriff praised the work of the two deputies who apprehended the suspects while investigating suspicious activities on the tracks near West Blue Ridge Road in the Flatrock area of Henderson County. During the course of their investigation, deputies found the suspects in possession of over 500 spikes that had been taken from a stretch of active rail road track. According to the sheriff , "This act of theft could have easily had catastrophic consequences had a train derailed in this area. A spillage of chemicals or other hazardous materials as a result of a derailment certainly puts our citizens at risk, as well as the emergency services personnel that would be required in such an incident. Of course rail transport is a safe and effective method of transporting these products as long as the rails aren't tampered with." The men, both of whom appear to be illegal aliens, gave no address of residence. They were each placed under a \$25,000 dollar bond and ordered held on ICE detainers pending deportation proceedings. Source:

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2010/mar/01/men-arrested-stealing-railroad-spikes-ar-47938/>

(California) No one knows where grenade came from. Officials are searching for fingerprints on a military grenade that was found on the I-5 freeway in San Clemente last week. They are hoping the prints may yield a clue as to how the grenade ended up there. Traffic came to a halt on both sides of the busy freeway for more than an hour February 26 as deputies with the Orange County Sheriff's Department rendered the grenade safe. A robot was used to inspect the grenade, which was found to be inert, said a police sergeant. But how the grenade ended up in the middle of traffic is still unknown, officials said. No one has come forward to claim the grenade. "We're waiting for fingerprints," he said, adding that bomb squad units rendered the grenade safe, but it was not detonated. The grenade was described as a Mk 2 grenade, also known as a pineapple grenade. There were wires protruding from the handle of the device, but there were no explosive materials inside it. Authorities with the California Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Department, Orange County Fire Authority, and Marines from Camp Pendleton responded to the freeway February 26 when the grenade was

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first reported by commuters before noon. Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/grenade-237032-freeway-officials.html>

WATER AND DAMS

Leading Water Utilities Secure Their Chemicals

A new survey by the Center for American Progress identifies 554 drinking water and wastewater plants in 47 states that have replaced extremely hazardous substances such as chlorine gas with safer and more secure chemicals or processes. Chlorine gas is regarded by DHS as a potential terrorist target because of its ability to cause mass casualties if released in a populated area.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/chemical_security.html

(Oregon) Dam plans target early warning system. Additional funding for the Silver Creek Dam early-warning monitoring system may allow the city to more easily notify residents of dam failure. The monitoring system, which has been discussed in variations for years, will visually monitor the dam and collect data that could alert Silverton officials to signs of a potential emergency situation. How officials will alert residents is another aspect of the project. Although an agreement has not yet been signed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has notified the city about available funding for the project that exceeds the amount the city budgeted for the system. The Army Corps funding would total \$539,000 with the agency assuming 65 percent of costs. The city would be responsible for the remaining 35 percent, which totals just more than \$188,500. The city has a total of about \$235,000 budgeted for the project. According to a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District, the project will be funded with the agency's appropriated general construction funds. Silverton Public Works Director said the extra money will allow for additional components to the project. One such addition is downstream warning sirens that could warn residents to evacuate or move to higher ground. Instead of a loud, droning signal, however, the siren may actually take the form of a recorded voice that would instruct residents to evacuate. Source:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20100303/COMMUNITIES/3030392/1132/news>

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295; email: ndslic@nd.gov ; FAX: 701-328-8175

State Radio: 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455

US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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